Leicester, Mass^tts,
Feb. 10/63.

Dear friend Wbl,

As I have been writing to Mrs Wigham I will just add a few lines to you - as time & letter-room serve - to tell you how well we got through with our Anniversaries. We could not but have some anxious feeling as to the pecuniary ~~o~~ Ather results of the "Subscription", considering the State of the times, the monstrous strain upon all pecuniary resources caused by the War, the wide-spread feeling, among the more superficial, that Slavery is doomed & dying fast enough, & that the Abolitionists have no longer a distinctive work to do, - & especially in view of Mrs. Chapman's entire withdrawal - & not withdrawal only, but ~~Letter~~ distinct advice & effort against our doing anything more as an Anti-Slavery Society. Her long activity & leadership in this work, her well known sagacity and generally correct pre-vision, entitled her to much influence, and we expected to suffer from its effects. We were therefore as much surprised as gratified to find the Contributions of our home friends, i.e. from all American sources, even something better than last year, and fully equal to what they have ever been, - exceeding $ 3000. Mrs. Chapman gave us no personal aid last year,

but she sent her donation of £200. This year she sent nothing - nor did her Sister-in-law - nor any of her family excepting Anne, who sent her usual donation. Mrs C.'s influence, so potent when exerted in the line of a right-onward movement for the Cause, seems to have at once become nothing when exerted for the opposite — for cessation of work, & dissolution of our association! Is it not a remarkable fact - illustrating anew how little the dependence of such a work is upon any human agency, or skill, or arm; - how strong we may all be for the truth, how powerless against it. So far, Mrs. Palmer's donation & yours, and one from Edinburgh of £26. received last week, are all we have received from your side the water. Last year we received about £1200. to £1300. from abroad. But of course, in view of the distress among your work-people, the hardness of times, &c. — to say nothing of misapprehensions of our country — we did not expect contributions from your side, save to a very limited extent. We have already

received more than I expected. Garrison thinks something more will come, but I do not know from what quarter he looks for it. Heaven - Mary Estlin writes to my Cousin S. J. M. that in Bristol she is left utterly alone, in Anti-Slavery; that even Mary Carpenter sides with the Secession-rebellion, and Rev. Edwin Chapman is about the same! That does amaze me. How strange that when we are approaching, drawing near, the time of complete humanization, at which we have been told all England would rise up to commend & befriend us, just there & then the antislavery sympathy & old friends in England cools off and dies, and - presto, change - starts up on the side of the rebels!, & the persistent, extreme Slaveholders, & of their desperate purpose to perpetuate their rule on this Western Continent. Well - we live to see strange things. But, on the other hand, how gloriously have Newman, Bright, Cairnes, Noel, Hall, Mill, &c. &c. stood forth. How magnificent the Manchester meeting, and how fine every way its Address to Pres. Lincoln! Ten thousand blessings on their heads. That was true, generous, effective help to the Cause of Freedom - an honest,

manly, telling rebuke to the villain
and consummate scoundrelism of the
Slaveholding Rebellion. — I must
mention the very handsome donation,
our Ladies' annuaeiary, this year, fr
Judge Samuel Gale of Montreal, Cana
of Four Hundred Dollars — a very
gratifying tribute to our Society, and a
most encouraging help.

"But I have not another
minute, and must say Good bye,

With sincere regard & sympathy
to all your family

Ever truly Yrs.

Sam'l May Jr

MsB.Mb 101.9.80